Jaggery Industry.

37. *MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any application has been received by the Excise Commissioner for promoting jaggery industry, by making sweet toddy, in North Travancore, especially in the Parur taluk?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The answer is in the negative.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): May I know from the member whether any steps have been taken to promote this industry in North Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There are Rules passed under the Abkari Regulation under which free licenses will be issued for the tapping of sweet toddy, if people apply for the same. So, it is for the people to take the necessary action and apply for licenses.

Appointment of a Steward in the General Hospital, Trivandrum.

83. *MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Will the Government be pleased to state, with reference to the appointment of a successor to Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, Steward, the General Hospital, Trivandrum, now retired:

(*a*) who was appointed in the place;

(*b*) who were the applicants; and

(*c*) whether the present officer has been appointed in preference to or over-looking the claims of qualified men who have acted in the Department, and, if so, why?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Mr. N. M. Subrahmanya Aiyar, a clerk in the Office of the Administrative Board, Medical Services, on a pay of Rs. 40-5/2-70, was appointed Steward of the General Hospital, in the vacancy of Mr. Sivatanu Pillai who was appointed Store-keeper, General Medical Stores. Mr. Sivatanu Pillai retires only on 24-12-1108.

(*b*) There was no applicant for the place.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know whether Mr. Sivatanu Pillai was Steward in the General Hospital?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He was Store-keeper in the Medical Stores. I have already said that he will retire from 24-12-1108.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know, in connection with his retirement, whether a successor has been appointed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a different question altogether.

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